IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (Previously presented) A closing system for a natural or artificial anus, comprising: a first cylindrical outer sleeve defining a first lumen with a first diameter and a second cylindrical inner sleeve defining a second lumen with a second diameter, said second sleeve having a portion nesting within the first lumen of said first sleeve, an inflatable balloon having a generally toroidal structure formed of a hose segment with a two-dimensional surface and defining a first end and a second end, which hose segment is inverted into itself, whereby its two ends extend generally coaxially with each other and said first end is connected to said first sleeve and forms a continuous pathway with said first lumen and said second end is connected to said second sleeve and forms a continuous pathway with said second lumen.

2. (Previously presented) The closing system in accordance with claim 1, wherein each said end of said balloon is preformed with one of two connection ports.

3. (Previously presented) The closing system as recited in claim 2, wherein said connection ports or ends of said balloon are preformed to have a generally constant cross-sectional length.

4. (Previously presented) The closing system in accordance with claim 3, wherein said connection ports or ends of said balloon are preformed such that cross sections through the two ends of the inverted hose have different lengths that correspond to different circumferential lengths.

5. (Previously presented) The closing system in accordance with claim 1, wherein the inverted hose is preformed such that its front end, which is distal relative to the mutually coaxial ends, assumes in an inflated state a gently curved contour with no

edge regions.

6. (Previously presented) The closing system in accordance with claim 2, wherein said balloon is preformed such that it has in an inflated state a diameter that exceeds a diameter of a bowel segment.

7. (Previously presented) The closing system in accordance with claim 6, wherein the length of each sleeve is smaller than one third the length of the balloon measured coaxially to the axis of symmetry of the inflated balloon.

8. (Previously presented) The closing system in accordance with claim 6, wherein the collapsed balloon is housed in a cavity, which is provided in a plug and is directed toward an interior of the bowel.

9. (Previously presented) The closing system as recited in claim 8, wherein the two connection ports of said balloon are connected by their mouths to said plug.

10. (Cancelled).

11. (Cancelled).

12. (Previously presented) The closing system as recited in claim 1, wherein said balloon can be pulled through the outer sleeve.

13. (Previously presented) The closing system as recited in claim 1, wherein the inner sleeve comprises an air channel.

14. (Previously presented) The closing system as recited in claim 13, wherein said air channel comprises a stop valve.

15. (Previously presented) The closing system as recited in claim 1, wherein a carbon filter can be disposed inside the inner sleeve.

16. (Previously presented) The closing system in accordance with claim 8,

wherein said plug and/or one or more sleeves is/are connectable to a sealing cap.

17. (Previously presented) The closing system as recited in claim 16, wherein said sealing cap is connected in adjacent contact to said plug.

18. (Previously presented) The closing system as recited in claim 16, wherein said sealing cap has a folded structure.

19. (Previously presented) The closing system in accordance with claim 16, wherein said sealing cap and/or said plug is connectable to a collection bag.

20. (Previously presented) The closing system in accordance with claim 19, wherein the collection bag is connectable to said sealing cap and to the inner sleeve.

21. (Previously presented) The closing system in accordance with claim 1, wherein said balloon is made of a thin-walled polymer, wherein the hose segment is inverted into itself to define an inner wall and an outer wall and wherein the portion of the inner wall of the inflated balloon disposed internally of the wearer defining an internal area configured without any rigid guide shaft therein that otherwise might project into the wearer's intestine.

22. (Previously presented) The closing system in accordance with claim 21, wherein said polymer is a selected one of polyurethane, a polyurethane/polyvinyl chloride blend and a comparable polyurethane-based material.

23. (Previously presented) The closing system in accordance with claim 1, wherein a ring-shaped element is fixed in a ring-shaped element is fixed in a central lumen of the hose segment inverted into itself, the fixing being effected only along a narrow, circumferentially surrounding line so as not to deteriorate freedom of movement of the balloon.

24. (Previously presented) The closing system in accordance with claim 23, wherein an externally controllable sealing element in the form of a separately inflatable balloon is disposed in the central lumen of the hose segment inverted into itself.

25. (Previously presented) The closing system in accordance with claim 24, wherein a tube can be inserted through the central lumen of the hose segment inverted into itself.